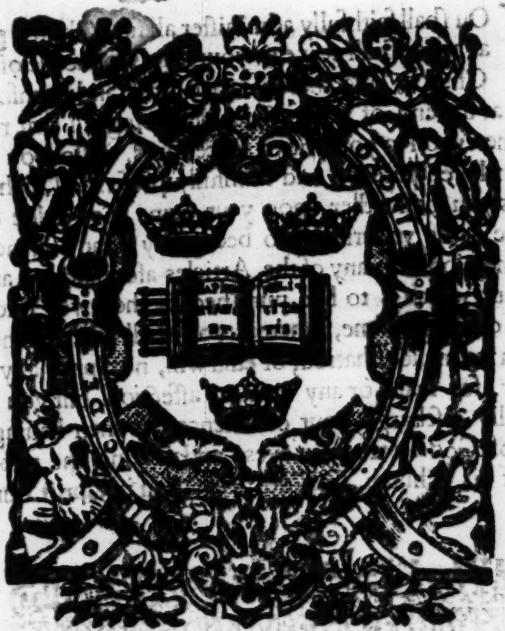
B. XI. 26

# ARTICLES
## MINISTRED IN THE VISITATION OF THE RIGHT Worshipfull Mr Doctor SHARPE
*Archdeacon of Barkeshire, in the yeare of our Lord God*
1626



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*The oath of the Church wardens.*

YOu ſhall faithfully adminiſter all ſuch Church goods as are or ſhall come to your hands to the vſe of your Church, and thereof make true and faithfull account at the end of your office, deliuering all that remaineth thereupon to your next ſucceſſours. Alſo you ſhall diligently enquire of, and faithfully preſent all ſuch perſons as you ſhall either vpon your owne knowledge or by publike fame vnderſtand to bee guilty of any offence or fault mentioned in any of the Articles aforeſaid, or any other fault which is to bee puniſhed by the lawes Eccleſiaſticall of the Realme, wherein you ſhall not preſent any perſon for malice, hatred, or euill will, nor ſpare any for fauour, for feare or any corrupt affection, but you ſhall faithfully diſcharge your conſciences, as men hauing the feare of God before your eyes, and ſeeking the reformation of his Church, ſo God helpe you in Chriſt our Saviour.

*Articles to be enquired of, &c.*

IN primis, whether your chancell, and church, or chappell be ſufficiently repaired, as well in ſtone, timber, lead, tyle, glaſſe, as all other neceſſary things, and if they be not, through whoſe default the ſame is omitted?

2 Whether your Churchyard be ſufficiently fenced and decently kept, and the trees therein growing not ſpoiled, if not, in whoſe default?

3 Whether the walles of your church, bee within whited, and beautified with fruitfull ſentences out of the holy Scriptures, and paued comely in the body of the church and chancell, and conuenient ſeates placed in the church and chancell, for the neceſſary vſe of the pariſhioners in time of diuine ſeruice?

4 Whether you haue in your pariſh Church and Chappell, all things neceſſary for the ſetting forth of common prayer and the adminiſtration of the Sacraments: namely the booke of common prayer lately ſet forth by his Maieſties authority, the Engliſh Bible in the largeſt volume, the two Tomes of Homilies; and whether are the ten Commandements ſet vpon the Eaſt end of your church or chappell, where the people may beſt ſee and reade them: a conuenient Pulpit well placed, a decent table ſtanding on a frame, for the holy Communion with a faire linnen cloath to lay vpon the ſame, and ſome couering of ſilke, buckerome, or other ſuch like, for the cleane keeping thereof, a comely communion cup of ſiluer, with a couer of ſiluer for the ſame, a decent ſurples with large ſleeues, a regiſter booke of parchment of chriſtnings, weddings, and burials, according to the 70 Conſtitution, a Font faſtned in ſome conuenient place of the church ſweete and decently kept, a ſure coffer with three lockes and keyes for the keeping of the ſaid Regiſter booke, and a ſtrong cheſt or boxe with three lockes or keyes to put

for the almes, and other things belonging to the premisses?

5 Whether your church and chancell be kept cleane and decently at all times, and especially against times of divine service, by such as are especially appointed for the purpose? and whether is your chancell well paued or no?

6 Whether doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or any other within your parish, or elsewhere neere about the same within the Archdeaconrie of Barkshire, to your knowledge, or as you haue heard by common report vse the ministration of the Lords supper, and baptisme, instruction of children, solemnization of matrimony, the visitation of the sicke, the buriall of the dead, and the churching of women, in such manner and forme and order, and with such manner of words as are set forth and prescribed in the booke of common prayer. If not, then what other forme or manner doth he or they vse in the premisses, or any of them? And doe they not vse the Ring in marriage, and crossing the childs head in Baptisme?

7 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or any other within your parish or elsewhere, neere about the same, within the Archdeaconry of Barkshire to your knowledge, or as you haue heard by common report, haue preached, declared, vttered, or spoken any thing against the said booke of common prayer, or any thing therein contained, or against any doctrine, rite or calling Ecclesiasticall within the Realme, established by publike authority, or against the ordination or election of Archbishops, Ministers, Deacons, or any of them, and what was the thing, or fault found vttered, declared, or preached and by whom?

8 Whether haue you as well vpon Sundaies and Holy-dayes as vpon Wednesdaies, Fridaies, and Saterdaies, service in your Church or chappell, according to the order appointed by lawfull authority, and whether doth your Minister in time of divine service and at the ministration of the sacraments alwaies vse and weare the surplesse?

9 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or curate, doe every sunday when there is no sermon, reade plainely some part of the Homilies prescribed to be read. Or whether any of them not being found to haue sufficient ability to preach, or not lawfully admitted there-

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ders doe take vpon thē to expound any part of the Scripture, and thereby omit the reading of Homilies?

10 Whether any doe presume to say ſeruice in your Church or chappell openly who is not a lawfull Miniſter, and ſufficiently licenſed by the Ordinary of the Archdeaconrie, vnder the ſeale of his Office?

11 Whether doth your Miniſter preach dually according to the conſtitutions; either in his owne Cure with you, or elſe in ſome other Church or chappell where adioyning where no Preacher is; or how often hath he beene negligent in his behalfe?

12 Whether is your Miniſter, a Preacher allowed, if yea then by whome? if not, whether doth he procure ſermons to be preached among you once in every month at the leaſt, by ſuch as are lawfully licenſed?

13 Whether hath your Miniſter another benefice, and whether doth he ſupply his abſence by a Curate that is ſufficiently licenced to preach in that cure of his, whereon he himſelfe is not reſident? Or otherwiſe in caſe he doth not find a preaching Miniſter there, by reaſon of the ſmalnes thereof? whether doth he preach at both his Benefices dually himſelfe?

14 Whether doth your Miniſter euery ſixth months denounce in his Parish all ſuch of his Parish as doe perſeuere in the ſentence of excommunication, not ſeeking to be abſolued, and whether hath he receiued any excommunicate perſon into the Church without a certificate from the Ordinarie?

15 Whether hath your Miniſter, or any other vnder pretence of liberty or priuiledge, or whatſoeuer elſe excuſe, preached, baptized children (except in time of great neceſſitie, as in the 69 Canon) ſolemnized mariage, churcht any woman, or miniſtred the holy communion in any priuate houſe or houſes, except vpon ſpeciall cauſe allowed, yea or no? if yea, then where, whome, when; and how often hath he offended in any of the premiſes?

16 Whether the communion be adminiſtred monthly, where the Pariſhes be great, or elſe ſo often euery yeare, as that the pariſhioners may receiue three times at the leaſt yearely?

17 Whether you know, or haue heard, that there haue beene any

Masse, or any other kind of Popish seruice or prayer within your Parish, either in Church or house vsed or said within these three yeares last past, in whose house it was, who said the same, and who were present.

18 Whether your Parson or Vicar be now resident vpon his benefice, if not, how long he hath beene absent from you, and where he is to your knowledge, or as you heare: to whome he hath let his Benefice, whether to a sufficient Curate, or to a Lay-Farmer?

19 Whether your Minister hath vsed the forme of thanksgiving for any woman after child-birth, being vnlawfully begotten with child, other wise then in forme of a penitent person, *viz.* in a white sheete or other habite, prescribed by the Ordinary, or vpon any other day then a Sunday or holy day; or before sufficient caution taken, that shee should not depart the Parish till shee should performe such penance as should be enioyned by the Ordinary.

20 Whether any receiue the holy Communion in any other place or Parish, forsaking there owne Parish? And whether any children haue beene baptised in any other parish or place, then their where they were borne.

21 Whether any haue ben admitted as Godfather or Godmother, that hath not before that time receiued the Communion.

22 Whether doth your Minister or Curate serue more then one Church or chappel in one day, except that chappell be a member of the Parish church.

23 Whether doth your Minister once euery yeare reade the booke of Canons or Constitutions openly in your Church vpon some Sunday or holyday?

24 Whether doth your Minister euery Sunday and holyday before euening prayer, for halfe an houre and more examine and instruct the youth and ignorant persons in his parish of the ten Commandements, Articles of beleife, and in the Lords prayer as also in the Catechisme set forth in the booke of common prayer? And whether doe all fathers, mothers, maisters and mistresses, cause their children, seruants, and apprentises to come thither, to heare and to be instructed and taught therein accordingly, as it is prescribed in the 59. Constitution. And if either Minister, or any of the rest

of

of your Parish be faulty or negligent therein, you shall not spare to present them howsoever, viz: the Minister for his negligence in not taking paines, and the householders with their servants for their carelesnesse in not sending or comeing, or refuseing to learne?

25 Whether there bee within your Parish or elsewhere neere about, any preaching, reading, or other such like exercise in any private houses, whereunto others doe resort, not being of the same family. And whether any doe preach, read, or catechise in the church, or elsewhere, that doth not at diuers times yearely say seruice, nor minister the Sacraments according to order appointed by publike authority.

26 Whether there bee an exact and perfect Register booke in parchment, of all Christenings, Weddings, and burials, duly and orderly kept within your Parish? And we require the Minister and Church-wardens to bring the same with them to vs at our next Visitation, that we may see the same accordingly.

27 Whether in the weeke before Whitsontide, commonly called Rogation weeke, your Perambulation be kept by your Minister, with a sufficient number of the parishioners of all sorts, as well the elders as younger sort for the better knowledge of the circuits and bounds of the Parish, with praiers for the better increase of the fruits of the earth, according to the order in that behalfe prouided.

28 Whether the Mansion house of your Parsons and Vicar bee kept in good reparation, and whether your Parson or Vicar haue beene absent from among you aboue eight daies in any one yeare at all not being lawfully qualified and dispensed with all?

29 Whether your Minister be suspected to be guilty of any notorious crime, as Symonie, adulterie, blasphemie, periurie, drunkennesse, idlenesse, vnseemely and vaine talke, and whether hee bee scandalous in his conuersation; through brawling, fighting, quarrelling peace-breaking, vnlawfull games, or haunting of places suspected, and not of good report, and whether your Parson or Vicar be knowne, suspected, or report to haue bought his Benefice, or come to it by any simoniacall compact made either by himselfe or others, directly, or indirectly, or doe let out his liuing or any

part

part thereof to any, in conſideration that he hath obtained the ſame? Haue an eſpeciall care of this Article.

30 Whether your Parſon or Vicar, not reſident vpon his Benefice, being able yearely to diſpend aboue twentie pounds by the ſaid Benefice, hath yearely giuen, diſtributed to the releefe of the poore and impotent of your Pariſh, the fortieth part of his ſaid Benefice?

31 Whether your Schoolemaſters, and other teachers within your Pariſh, bee allowed by the Ordinarie? And whether they doe teach their ſchollers in Catechiſme, and doe encourage them to loue true Religion, and doe cauſe them daily, morning and euening to ioyne together in prayer vnto God, for the reſt of learning and other his good graces? and whether they doe inſtruct them in fit grace before and after meat?

32 Whether there bee any within your Pariſh, that keepe open Inues, Ale-houſes, victualling or tiplng in the time of Seruice, Sermons vpon Sundaies, Holydaies, and other Feſtiuall daies appointed by law, or ſuffer any gaming within their houſes in the ſaid daies and times. And any butchers or others that ſell victuals, vpon the daies aforeſaid keepe open ſhoppes, and ſell their victuall, & whether there be any ſelling of wares in any Church or churchyard.

33 Item, you ſhall truely and diligently from time to time preſent vnto vs the names of all fighters, quarrellers, brawlers, and chiders in Church and church-yard, that by vs only being the immediate Ordinarie in the Archdeaconrie; ſuch redreſſe may be had, as the Statute requireth in that behalfe.

34 Whether any haue beene married within your Pariſh that haue not had their banes aſked three ſeuerall Sundaies or Holydaies in time of Diuine ſeruice in the preſence of the people, vnleſſe the ſame haue beene lawfully licenſed ſo to doe, either by vs the immediate Ordinarie of this Archdeaconrie, or the office of Faculties, or the Biſhop of this Dioces in his Ordinary viſitation.

35 Whether any haue beene married within your Pariſh that haue dwelt in other Pariſhes without a certificate of the banes aſking from the Miniſter or Curate of the Pariſhes, where the ſaid par tie